

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** June 2, 2005

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 5:17 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman  
Jim Bradford  
Ginny Cain  
Scott Keller  
Dane Mahern  
Angela Mansfield  
Mary Moriarty Adams

#### ABSENT MEMBERS

Patrice Abduallah  
Mike Speedy

### **AGENDA**

PROPOSAL NO. 253, 2005 - increases the stormwater user fee

"Postpone" until June 23, 2005

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 254, 2005 - authorizes intersection controls for the intersection of 61st Street and Burlington Avenue at Hillside Avenue West Drive (District 3)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 255, 2005 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Periwinkle Way and Spindrift Lane (District 4)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 256, 2005 - authorizes parking restrictions on Capitol Avenue near 32nd Street (District 8)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 257, 2005 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Fleming Street and Henry Street (District 14)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, June 2, 2005. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ginny Cain, Scott Keller, Dane Mahern, and Angela Mansfield. Jim Bradford and Mary Moriarty Adams arrived shortly thereafter. Patrice Abdullah and Mike Speedy were absent. Councillor Bob Cockrum was also in attendance.

### PROPOSAL NO. 253, 2005 - increases the stormwater user fee

Chairman Conley asked the sponsor of the proposal, Councillor Cockrum, to make a few remarks.

[Clerk's Note: Councillors Moriarty Adams and Bradford arrived at 5:01 p.m.]

Councillor Cockrum stated that he has had a lot of discussion with the administration regarding this proposal over the last week and he has agreed to postpone it until the next meeting, in order to allow for some amendments the administration would like to propose. He said that he wants to go on record as saying that he has asked for assurance that the administration will support the proposal before he can vote to support the stadium funding issue. He said that this is the biggest issue in his district, and the administration has assured him that, with some amendments, they could support it.

Chairman Conley said that this agrees with his understanding, and the delay is not an attempt to block or prevent the proposal from moving forward, but is simply an effort to look at the matter holistically.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 253, 2005 until June 23, 2005. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Chairman Conley asked for Proposal Nos. 254-257, 2005 to be heard together with the consent of the Committee. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 254, 2005 - authorizes intersection controls for the intersection of 61st Street and Burlington Avenue at Hillside Avenue West Drive (District 3)

PROPOSAL NO. 255, 2005 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Periwinkle Way and Spindrift Lane (District 4)

PROPOSAL NO. 256, 2005 - authorizes parking restrictions on Capitol Avenue near 32nd Street (District 8)

PROPOSAL NO. 257, 2005 - authorizes a multi-way stop at the intersection of Fleming Street and Henry Street (District 14)

Nathan Sheets, project manager for the Department of Public Works (DPW), read the digests of the proposals and stated that all four have been reviewed and approved by staff.

Councillor Mahern asked if the Councillors in whose districts these projects are located have signed off on these proposals. Mr. Sheets stated that they have.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal Nos. 254-257, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Bradford stated that there has been a lot of discussion recently in the newspaper about discontinuing the recycling program. He said that today in his mailbox he received some more information with concerns about the future of the program. He asked if the program is indeed being discontinued. James Garrard, director of DPW, stated that they are still looking at this issue, and no final decision has been made. In considering cost-cutting measures due to the budget crisis, the curbside portion of the program is not widely used and could be something that is considered. Councillor Bradford asked if the recycling program will be another item that is cut because of the budget outlook. Mr. Garrard said that it will be considered along with other services.

Councillor Bradford asked if the cutback will take place immediately, or if this Committee will be allowed any input. He said that Council members heard about City pools opening late as a part of budget cuts after the decision was already made, and they had no input in the matter. Mr. Garrard said that they are still discussing the recycling program and have not yet made any official determination. Councillor Bradford said that he would like for this Committee to hear about any cuts to recycling services before they read about it in the paper. Mr. Garrard said that the administration is having to make many hard decisions about where to cut the budget, since the Mayor's IndyWorks plan was not approved. Councillor Bradford stated that expenditures for City pools and the recycling program are already in the 2005 approved budget, and he does not understand why funding for these programs would be cut this year. Mr. Garrard said that the administration is trying to do as much underspending as possible in order to free up dollars for necessary services in anticipation of the budget shortfalls.

Councillor Bradford asked if there will be possible layoffs. Mr. Garrard said that he hopes that is not the case. Councillor Bradford said that last year DPW provided a

memorandum to Committee members that stated the department was able to give back \$400,000 in underspending, and he asked why some of this money was not reserved in order to meet future needs, so that services would not have to be cut. Mr. Garrard said that underspending the \$400,000 was simply being fiscally responsible, when those monies could be better spent in other areas where vital services might be in jeopardy. Councillor Bradford said that he can see other areas where cutting spending would be more reasonable than cutting DPW services, such as having the \$3 million in arts funding and funding for Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. transferred to the Capital Improvements Board (CIB). He said that funding for programs like Noble Centers and the Marion County Fairgrounds are in jeopardy also on the County side, and these are important programs to many citizens.

Councillor Bradford asked if there will still be funds to complete the levy project. Mr. Garrard said that the federal government has already fully funded the next round of that project, which should also help the stormwater issues. Councillor Bradford asked what the expected date of completion is for this project. Mr. Garrard said that he does not know that specific date and will have to get back to Councillor Bradford with an answer. He added that many of the cuts they will have to look at are not pretty and are very hard decisions, but must be considered due to the IndyWorks plan not passing. Councillor Bradford asked then if the City will not be able to provide the local match, even though a third of the levy has been built with federal dollars. He said that if the City has agreed with the federal government to do this project, how can they back out now because the money is gone? He said the money should have already been appropriated when the City agreed to do the project. Mr. Garrard said that last year it was the federal dollars that were cut back for this project, but the federal government has fully funded their portion this year. Councillor Bradford asked if the next phase will be completed this year. Mr. Garrard said that it probably will. Councillor Bradford stated that he would like Mr. Garrard to come to a Broad Ripple Village Association meeting to talk about this issue. Mr. Garrard said that a meeting was scheduled previously and he would be glad to come again. He said that there are many hard decisions facing the City because of the budget crisis.

Councillor Moriarty Adams said that it might be a good idea to have Robert Clifford, City Controller, come to speak to the Committee about the state of the City budget, in light of recent communication that revenues have not been realized as anticipated. Councillor Bradford said that a memo he received in his mailbox today says that revenue collections are actually 104% above what was projected. He provided a copy of the memo to Councillor Moriarty Adams, which stated that revenue collections were ahead of projections year-to-date at \$97.66 million. Councillor Moriarty Adams said that it would still be a good idea to bring Mr. Clifford in to see where the City stands on making these budget cuts. Councillor Bradford agreed.

Councillor Keller asked if the program involving 96-gallon trash receptacles is in danger of being cut. He said that he believed the money was already appropriated for this program and the receptacles already purchased. Mr. Garrard said that they rolled out

the next phase of the project this year, and those containers are already in DPW areas. He said that it is an automated collection that has resulted in cleaner neighborhoods and less illegal dumping. He said that the department is still moving forward with this program, as it will realize a cost savings over time and essentially pay for itself. He said that he does not anticipate cutting this program.

Councillor Moriarty Adams said that in re-reading the revenue highlights memorandum Councillor Bradford provided, it is stated that the anticipated year-end revenues will be less than projected, and 2006 revenues will remain relatively flat.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lonnell Conley, Chairman

LC/ag